

REGIONAL REPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS AUGUST THROUGH NOVEMBER 1955

Southeastern and central New York was pounded by gale winds and torrential rains as the results of hurricanes Connie (Aug. 13) and Diane (Aug. 18). These storms came much earlier than last year and brought with them different species. This year terns, petrels and sandpipers were displaced (see Regions 3, 4, 9 and 10; also *Atlantic Naturalist* Vol. 11, No. 2, p. 77; *Aud. Field Notes* Vol. 9, No. 5). Least Terns were reported from regions 3, 4 and 9; Sootys from region 3 (just south at Athens, Pa.), regions 9 and 10; a Leach's Petrel on Seneca Lake (Reg. 3).

The three great song bird families — warblers, blackbirds and sparrows — appeared to prosper well this year, at least they were often seen in large numbers this fall. White-crowned Sparrows were unusually numerous in Regs. 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10. Redwings lingered late and were seen in spectacular numbers in the central part of the State. Baird's Sandpipers — an unusual species in western New York — were reported from Regs. 3, 4 (seven in one day early Sept.) and 5.

SUMMARY OF TREE AND SHRUB FRUIT CROPS MATURING 1955

Region	1'	3	4	5	6	7*	9"	10
Red Pine	—	F	—	G	P	G	—	—
White Pine	—	P	—	G	F	G	—	—
Pitch Pine	—	—	—	—	F	G	—	G
Larch	—	G	—	G	G	P	—	—
White Spruce	—	F	—	F	F	F	—	—
Black Spruce	—	—	—	—	F	F	—	—
Red Spruce	—	—	—	—	—	P	—	—
Balsam Fir	—	G	—	F	P	—	—	—
Hemlock	G	G	G	F	F	G	P	—
Arbor-vitae	—	—	—	G	P	F	—	—
Red Cedar	—	—	—	—	P	F	—	F
Bayberry	—	—	—	—	—	G	F-G	P
Ironwood (<i>Ostrya</i>)	F	F	—	P	F	G	—	—
Blue Beech (<i>Carpinus</i>)	F	F	—	—	P	G	—	—
Yellow Birch	G	—	—	G	G	F	—	—
White Birch	—	—	G	G	G	F	—	F
Amer. Beech	G	G	G	P	P	F	—	—
White Oak	P	P	G	P	F	P	G	G
Red Oak	P	P	—	P	F	G	G	G
Cucumber Tree	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mt. Ash	—	G	G	F	G	F	F	—
Thornapple	G	G	G	F	P	G	—	—
Wild Black Cherry	G	G	P	P	G	G	—	F
Box Elder	—	—	G	G	G	G	—	—
Sugar Maple	F	F	F	P	F	G	P	—
Grey Dogwood	—	G	G	—	—	G	G	—
Red-osier Dogwood	—	G	—	F	—	—	—	—
White Ash	G	—	—	F	G	G	P	—
Black-berried Elder	G	G	F	F	G	G	—	—

P—poor crop, F—fair crop, G—good crop

—southern Cattaraugus Co., *Champlain Valley, " Rockland Co.

The fruit crop this fall, as summarized below, is almost the reverse of

last year. On the western and central part of the Alleghany Plateau beech-nuts, wild black cherries, white ash and hemlock produced good crops but in the east this crop was poor to fair. Acorns were generally scarce in the western part of the State but good in the Champlain Valley and southeastern portions.

Grey Shrikes, Evening Grosbeaks, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers and Golden-crown Kinglets seem to be wintering in fair numbers in western and south-central portions of the State.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

CLARKE S. BEARDSLEE

August was very hot. The two-month drought was broken by a 2.4" fall on the 10th. Another inch fell on the 13th as Hurricane Connie's westward edge passed through. Some warblers arrived from the north exceptionally early, for no apparent reason. September was closer to normal, but October again was warm and rainy, — the second wettest October of record (8.12"). It was mild enough to delay the southward movement of many land birds. November was stormy. A record seiche, with very high WSW winds, occurred on the 16th and 17th, and was followed by a blinding snowstorm. Twenty inches of snow fell on the 28th and 29th, causing a state of emergency to be declared in South Buffalo. Three species of vireos, four of warblers, and a Baltimore Oriole were present at the same time Red Crossbills, White-winged Crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks, and other northern species were being reported.

LOONS — DUCKS: The latest egret record was 9/4 at Randolph (C. Parker); a very late Least Bittern was observed 9/29 by A. Schaffner (Buffalo). Parker reported 300 Whistling Swans on upper Chautauqua Lake on 11/6 and throughout the balance of November. A large flock of Swans flew SE over Vandalia 11/9. A B.O.S. census on 10/16 showed a total of 1404 Canada Geese, but neither Blue nor Snow have been reported this fall. A single European Widgeon was found 10/16 at Stilson's Pond (Eschelmans); this bird remains a rarity, while Gadwalls are definitely more numerous than they were twenty years ago, no less than 10 having been seen at Grand Island 10/20 (A.S., B. Nathan, H. Thorpe). Twelve hundred Redheads (a very large flock for western New York) were counted 10/30 at Mayville by Robinson and Lenna (rep. C.P.).

HAWKS — OWLS: A peregrinating Broad-wing was observed 8/24 (very early) by D. Brownstein in Delaware Park. Our first Rough-leg arrived 10/13 (Grand Island, R. Coggeshall). Chautauqua Lake lived up to its reputation by furnishing a record of 2000 Coots on 10/16 (C.P., et al.). A few Golden Plover records are at hand, but none of the numbers of recent years. Two late Spotted Sandpipers were counted on the 10/16 census. Both Snipe and Woodcock were last seen 11/13 at Grand Island (J. Stains), and Greater Yellowlegs, also at Grand Island, on 11/6 (C. Beardslee). Gull records for the period were very spotty. A single Franklin's was observed 11/26 at Buffalo (B.N., A.S.), constituting a very late record indeed. No little Gulls were reported, and neither Glaucous nor Iceland Gulls had arrived by November's end. One Kumlien's Gull was found on 11/20 (Niagara Falls, A.S.), and 10,000 Bonaparte's Gulls were on the Niagara River above the International Bridge throughout the latter half of November. The last Common Tern was found (as always) off Squaw Island, Buffalo, on the very late date of 11/27 (A.S. et al.). Three Forster's Terns were reported on the 10/16 census. The highest count of Black Terns was 2000 on 8/21 (Niagara River, H. Mitchell); this is very low, and possibly the peak was missed by our observers. Two late Black-billed Cuckoos showed up for our 10/16 census. The only owl record of moment was a Saw-whet which the Klambundes found at Youngstown 11/24 and 11/26.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: The last Nighthawk record was of two seen on 9/18 (Snyder, R. Verrill), the earliest date for the last record (if you know what I mean) that I can recall. Swifts also left early, latest record being of two 9/13 (Buffalo, A.S.).